

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed December 22, 2004 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the drawings, the label for element 340 has been corrected on FIG. 3B to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-73 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

New claims 74-105 also particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for these claims may be found in the specification, page 19, paragraph 32 through page 26, paragraph 51.

With this amendment it is respectfully submitted the claims satisfy the statutory requirements.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph Rejection

Claims 8, 27, 46 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly reciting the limitation “the first expected request”. Claims 12, 31, 50 and 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly reciting the limitation “the responses”. Claims 14, 33, 52 and 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject

matter applicant regards as the invention. These claims have all been canceled, and thus this rejection is now moot.

The First 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-3, 6-22, 25-41, 44-60 and 63-73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Chen et al.¹. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-3, 6-22, 25-41, 44-60, and 63-73 have been canceled. However, the Chen reference will be discussed with respect to new claims 74-105 in order to expedite prosecution of the case.

Chen describes a lookahead cache for SNMP requests, "whereby data items which have not yet been requested by the Agent (but are expected to be) are retrieved from Instrumentation." Col. 5, lines 1-3. An entire row of data is retrieved from an SNMP table, thus reducing the need to access the SNMP table.

Chen, however, fails to teach or suggest "determining if said network management data request contains a pattern defined in a memory" and "determining if said network management data request is contained in a cache of prefetched network management data requests if said network management data request contains a pattern defined in said memory" as claimed in claim 74. Chen simply checks a cache each time a request is received to determine if the request is in the cache, and if so, it is able to serve the request from the cache and save bandwidth with

¹ U.S. Patent 6,076,107

an access request. There is no determining if the network management data request contains a pattern defined in a memory, only a check of whether the request can be served by data in the cache.

This difference would allow, for example, the present invention to reduce the processing time for an incoming request. Rather than necessitate a check of the cache each time a request is received, it is now possible to limit the checking of the cache to only those requests that match a pattern defined in the memory.

Chen also fails to teach "initiating periodic data collections for said pattern". Chen simply retrieves an entire row of data as a "prefetch". There is no indication that periodic data collections are initiated, nor collection initiated for a particular pattern.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 74 is in condition for allowance.

As to independent claims 82, 90, and 98, these claims contain elements similar to that of claim 74, and thus Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

As to dependent claims 75-81, 83-89, 91-97, and 99-105, the argument set forth above is equally applicable here. The base claims being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 4, 5, 23, 24, 42, 43, 61 and 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Chen in view of Case et al.². These claims have been canceled, and thus this rejection is now moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

² "A Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)", May 1990, RFC 1157, pages 6, 13, 18, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1157.txt?number=1157>.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: _____

3/18/05



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement and annotated sheets of drawings includes changes to FIG. 3B as follows.

FIG. 3B has been amended to correct the spelling of the word "Request".

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

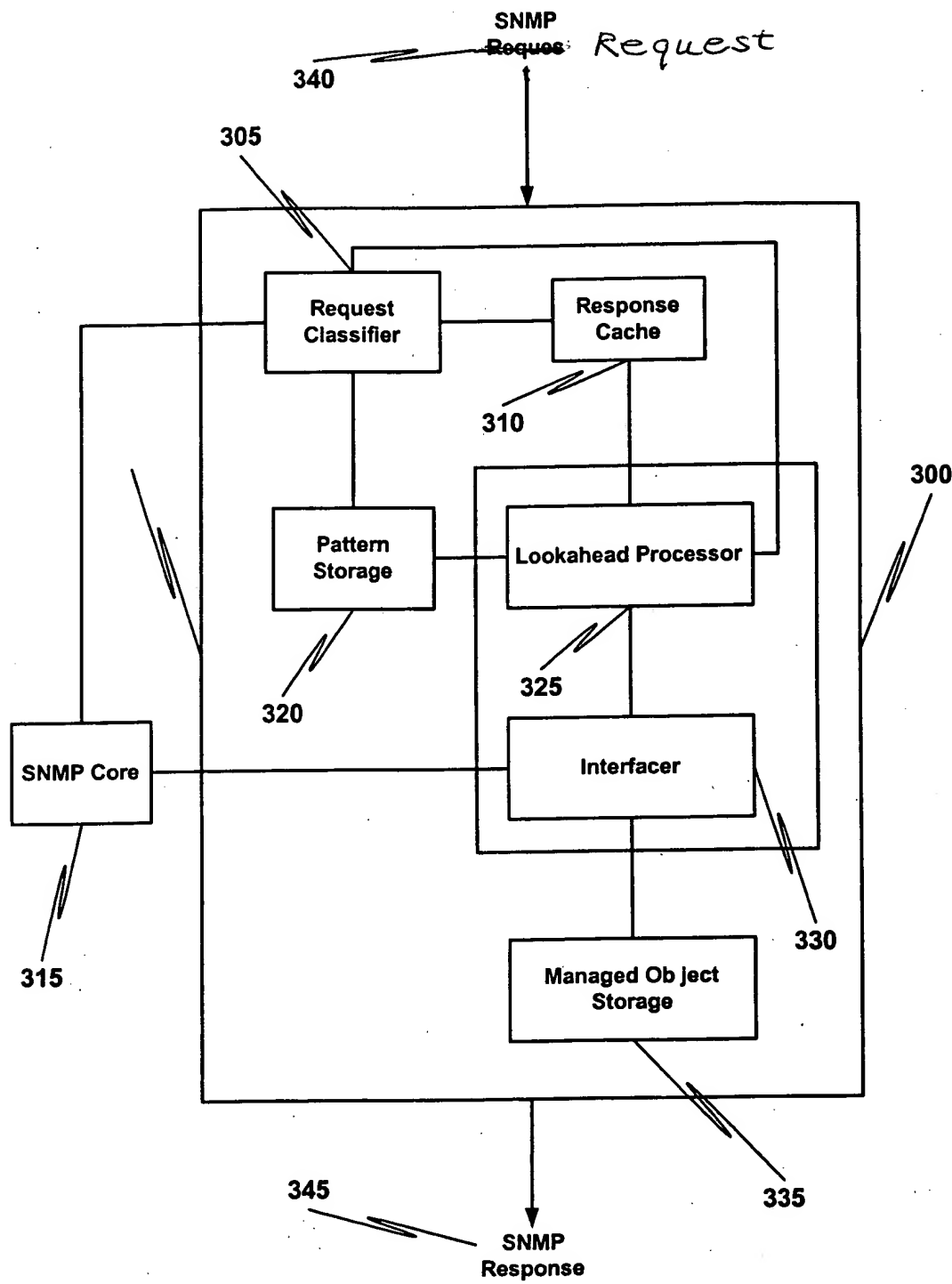


FIG. 3B